



# IRB CITY TIMES



Sep/Oct 2011

[www.indian-rocks-beach.com](http://www.indian-rocks-beach.com)

Second Edition/ Volume 5



## 2011 EVENTS



**Mon Sep 5**

**Labor Day  
(CLOSED)**

Tue Sep 6 7:00p Board of Adj. & Appeals

Thu Sep 8 7:00p City Commission Mtg.

Thu Sep 22 7:00p City Commission Mtg

Tue Oct 4 7:00p Board of Adj. & Appeals

Tue Oct 11 7:00p City Commission Mtg.

**Sat Oct 15**  
**Oktoberfest &  
Florida Coastal Clean Up**

Tue Oct 25 7:00p City Commission Mtg.

**Sat Oct 29**  
**Pumpkin Carving &  
Haunted House**

## GULF BLVD LANDSCAPING

In September/October, the southern entry to Indian Rocks Beach will have a landscape "facelift" along the east side of Gulf Boulevard. Using an FDOT grant, the City will install 18 stately palm trees along the Narrows waterway and add some low level flowers and landscaping as well.

The change from Indian Shores to Indian Rocks Beach should be visibly very noticeable and provide a very nice accent to our community.



## IRB HISTORICAL MUSEUM EXPANSION

The City received 4 bids for the planned addition to the Historical Museum structure in Chic-A-Si Park. The apparent lowest responsible bidder is Oakhurst Construction Co. in the amount of \$238,000. Construction is expected to begin in early September. Funding is from the "Penny for Pinellas" Fund and the Indian Rocks Area Historical Society.

The project has 2 purposes: 1) to enlarge the Historical Museum exhibit and storage spaces by 1,000 sq. ft., and 2) to create 2 public restrooms for Chic-A-Si Park. The restrooms will also service the planned new transient boat docks in the adjacent Keegan Clair Park.



The Indian Rocks Historical Society was founded as a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of promoting the history of the Indian Rocks area through public education on matters of historical and/or architectural significance with respect to properties, structures and artifacts in and about the Indian Rocks area.

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## City of Indian Rocks Beach

1507 Bay Palm Boulevard 727/595-2517

### City Commission

Mayor **R. B. Johnson**

Vice Mayor **Phil Hanna**

Commissioner **Cookie Kennedy**

Commissioner **Daniel Torres**

Commissioner **Terry Hamilton Wollin**

City Manager

Charles S. Coward

City Attorney

Maura Kiefer

City Clerk

Deanne B. O'Reilly

Finance Director

M. Earl "Sandy" Sanders

Public Services Director

Dean A. Scharmen

Planning & Zoning Director

Danny E. Taylor

Building Official

Daniel N. Weigner

Librarian

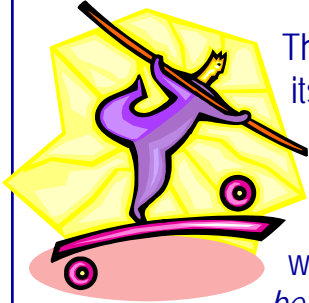
Jane Mitchell



Website: [www.indian-rocks-beach.com](http://www.indian-rocks-beach.com)



## SEPTEMBER BUDGET HEARINGS



The City Commission completed its review of the IRB preliminary budget this past July. The City Commission's proposed budget can now be found on the City's website, at [www.indian-rocks-beach.com](http://www.indian-rocks-beach.com), and two public hearings are scheduled in September if you would like to make comments. The first hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium, and the second on Thursday, September 22nd, also at 7:00 p.m., in the City Hall Auditorium.

The proposed FY 11-12 Budget maintains the same mill levy of the past three years at 2.00 mills, even though the total assessed valuation in the City has dropped another 7%. The Indian Rocks Beach city millage and total combined millage both rank as some of the lowest of all 24 Pinellas County cities (we rank 8th lowest in both categories).

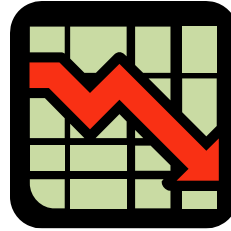
While several small cutbacks and reductions will contribute to a 1.7% reduction in General Fund spending next year, those basic services which the residents have come to expect will remain unchanged.

The most significant elements of next year's budget are capital. The expansion of the Historical Museum, construction of transient boat docks in the Narrows Business District and the paving of Gulf Blvd. south of Walsingham Road, by Pinellas County, will provide significant improvements to our



City.

## 2010 CENSUS



Indian Rocks Beach experienced a 19% population decrease over the last 10 years. The U.S. Census Bureau lists our population at 4,113. Ninety percent (90%) of the decrease occurs in the age group 25 - 54 years. The number of households and the number of occupied housing units also declined during that 10 year period from about 2,700 in the year 2000 to 2,189 in 2010. Seasonal housing units also decreased by 12% from 990 to 867.

Over all, the Pinellas County population decreased by 1.6% to 915,218. Several of the beach communities seem to be the leaders in the Pinellas County population losses. Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Redington Beach, Redington Shores and Treasure Island all had losses greater than 10%.

The median age in Indian Rocks Beach drifted slightly higher too, rising from 48 to 52 years of age.

## CITY BUYS THE SCHMIDT HOUSE !

A significant result from this community's visioning effort, via the USF Special Area Plan in 2009, was a desire to upgrade the Walsingham entry into Indian Rocks Beach and to remake the intersection of Gulf Blvd. and Walsingham as a focal point. A key element in making this vision a viable project was for the City to acquire the property at 442 Gulf Blvd. The City closed on this purchase in August.

The property is generally known as the "Schmidt House", and has been boarded up and uninhabitable for many years. Its acquisition will allow for entry views to the Gulf of Mexico, beautification elements and relocation of the traffic signal system.

Funding for the acquisition will come from the "Penny for Pinellas" Fund. Planning and design for the upgrade improvement will take place in 2012 with considerable public input. Construction is scheduled for 2013.

